

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2006/0015906 to Boyer et al. (hereinafter, merely "Boyer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,505 to Walker et al. (hereinafter, merely "Walker") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,017,175 to Alao et al. (hereinafter, merely "Alao").

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 have not been properly rejected. Claims 1-5 have been rejected in view of Alao, which is not prior art. The effective filing date for the present invention is November 30, 2000.

Alao's filing date is May 16, 2001, and is related to provisional applications: 60/279,543, filed on March 28, 2001; 60/269,261, filed on February 15, 2001; 60/267,876, filed on February 9, 2001; 60/266,210, filed on February 2, 2001; and 60/265,986, filed on February 2, 2001.

Applicants submit Alao's filing date is after November 30, 2000, and therefore cannot be relied upon as prior art of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that each of the above rejections is not valid, therefore, claims 1-5 are allowable.

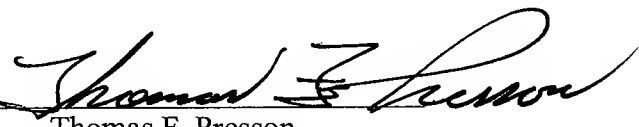
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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